Societies Regulation. Some capable officer of the Government, intimately acquainted with the provisions of the Regulation and the working of similar societies outside Travancore, should co-operate with the influential men on the spot, in the work of convincing the great mass of ignorant agriculturists that the provisions embodied in the Regulation were intended for their welfare and that the success of the experiment depended entirely on their willingness and capacity to cultivate, in a far larger measure, the habits of honesty and mutual trust. If that preliminary work of instruction was neglected, the Regulation would not at present be anything more than an unprofitable addition to the statute book. In other words, having recognised the need for co-operative credit, the Government should take early steps for the actual introduction of co-operative principles in the agricultural life of the country. And, for that purpose, the Member suggested that the Government should appoint a full-time officer, who, having seen a good many co-operative societies at work abroad and having made a special study of them, not only by reading books but by spending a few months among those societies and by seeing things actually done, had thoroughly grasped their guiding principles; and that officer should move about the country, persuading the mass of agriculturists and organising societies wherever possible.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

41. Some suggestions for the improvement of agriculture.

Mr. Vareed Ipe (Member, Ettumanur taluk) dwelt at length on the circumstances which militated against the expansion of agriculture in the State and submitted the following suggestions for remedying those disabilities.

(1) Agricultural Boards, consisting of official and non-official members chosen from the cultivators, should be constituted in each taluk, or their functions should be vested in the proposed Village Panchayats. It should be their duty to work the Irrigation, Land Conservancy, Cattle Trespass and Agricultural Loans Regulations in such a way as to help agriculture, and also to protect the existing water-sources useful for agriculture.

(2) Sufficient lands should be set apart in each taluk to serve the special requirements of agriculture.

(3) A manure depot should be opened in all taluk centres.

(4) A law should be enacted prohibiting cruelty to the cattle useful for agriculture.

(5) Water-pumps should be purchased and issued by the Boards for the use of the cultivators.

(6) There were several irrigation tanks and other water-sources in different parts of the State, not shown on the survey plan. They should all be found out during the Land Records Maintenance and properly maintained. Porambokes useful for agriculture should be reserved for that purpose.

(7) The Division Peishkars should be given power to sanction agricultural loans up to Rs. 3,000. Any works done by the ryot on his land calculated to raise the value of the land should be reckoned in favour of the ryot and increased loans to that extent given. Applications for loans should be disposed of within a minimum period to be fixed.

(8) A demonstration farm should be opened in each taluk.

(9) Agriculture should be taught as a compulsory subject in schools and a small farm should be attached to each school to instruct the boys in the methods of cultivation.

(10) An agricultural exhibition should be held here annually, as in Cochin and Pudukotta.

(11) Useful lectures on agriculture should be arranged to be given.

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(12) Agricultural Banks should be established and worked under the supervision of the proposed Agricultural Boards.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

42. The means and measures necessary for the stability and improvement of puncha cultivation in Kuttanad.

Mr. K. C. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) said that the lands in Kuttanad, unlike those of Nanjanad, could not be artificially manured. The alluvial deposit from the river was carried to the distant *puncha* lands by certain canals dug by the people years ago. Those canals had now been encroached upon in many places, and even the portions left were in a very neglected condition, being mostly silted up. The manurial deposit from the river could not therefore reach the *puncha* lands. Another obstacle to *puncha* cultivation came from the owners of lands adjoining the river, who raised up those lands and converted them into cocoanut gardens, thereby shutting out all chances of the manure from the river finding its way to the *puncha* fields. There was also culpable neglect on the part of land-owners in maintaining the bunds of paddy lands properly. As it was imperative that such impediments to *puncha* cultivation should be at once removed, the Member suggested that an enactment should be passed and land-owners should be required to take permission from the Tahsildar to convert wet lands into gardens. They should also be compelled to strengthen their bunds and the omission to do so should be made penal. There should be provision to enable the owners injuriously affected by such neglect to do the needful works themselves and recover the cost from the men at fault. He also suggested that steps should be taken to remove the encroachments on the canals, wherever they were shown on the map. But many canals, not on the map, were even more useful for agriculture. They should be ascertained during the Land Records Maintenance and restored to their original condition, in consultation with the Director of Agriculture.

The Member next said that the 500 acres of land proposed to be set apart in Prakattukari to serve as a grazing ground was quite inadequate to meet requirements. At least 2,000 acres should be reserved there for the purpose.

The next requirement was in the matter of medical aid for diseased cattle. The nearest veterinary hospital was the one at Kottayam and that was of no use to the ryots of Kuttanad. The *puncha* lands extended, from east to west, over a distance of 18 miles. Three veterinary hospitals should therefore be established for the area, one each at the eastern and western extremities, and one in the centre. It was also necessary to establish a few cattle-pounds in convenient centres in the locality.

The Member lastly referred to the difficulty of strengthening the *chiravarambu* (bunds) of lands reclaimed from the Vembanad lake. Branches and leaves (ഓലപ്പട) were required for the purpose. He requested that small hills in the vicinity should be reserved and the material needed made available to the ryots at a moderate price.

Dewan's reply.—The Director of Agriculture will be asked to report on the suggestions of the Member.

43. Certain suggestions in regard to the system of irrigation in South Travancore.

Mr. M. Subramonia Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) said that, since notifying his subject, he read the G. O. settling the date of opening the Kodayar Reservoir. Under that, the ryots got a concession of about 12 days in the matter of the water-supply. He had therefore been specially asked to drop the discussion of that point for the present, and, on behalf of the Nanjanad people, he conveyed to the Government their hearty thanks for the concession given.

He next referred to the floods in the Pazhayar, and said that they were of frequent occurrence and destroyed hundreds of acres of paddy lands every year.

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